



SITUATION REPORT #152



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: March 16, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	4819
Recovered	4733
Deaths	59
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	1
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	0
Tests Submitted –	Number
Positivity Rate Walla Walla County for week ending 3/15/2021	0.6%
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	255
College Place	600
Dixie	22
Prescott	116
Touchet/Lowden	86
Waitsburg	70
Walla Walla	3670
Total	4819



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Confirmed Cases by Age		Number
Under 20		640
20-39		2003
40-59		1390
60-79		606
Over 80		180
Confirmed Cases by Gender		Number
Female		1990
Male		2829
TOTAL		4819

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 2/10 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH, Providence and Community Partners are holding Mass Vaccination Clinics at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds
- DCH has hired a nurse, a Communications Coordinator and 2 case investigators
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, February 2nd
- DCH attending M-Th DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:



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- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 3.22.21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-20213159910	03/15/21	Tier 1 PPE	Assigned to Logistics
WA-202131510239	03/15/21	BYD Mask Allocation	Assigned to Logistics

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2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- Providence St. Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) stated that previous experience gained in working with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Equity Task Force rollout has been successful.
- The partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.

3. Risks and challenges

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

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- **COVID-19 Cases**

- Total Confirmed Cases: 4,819

- ❖ Recovered: 4,733

- ❖ Active: 27

- 27 in-home isolation & hospitalization data not available at time of report

- 0 hospitalized

- ❖ Deaths: 59

- Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) – included in numbers above:

- ❖ 0 incarcerated active

- ❖ 2 staff active

- Positivity Rate 0.0%, as of 3/9/21

- 3/2 to 3/15, 139 per 100K total (including WSP)

- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Contact tracing is seeing increased numbers of people refusing to speak with the tracers or provide information about exposure.
- Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Walla Walla County Emergency Management (WWEM) is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- WWEM will continue to manage immunization clinic volunteers under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program.
- Walla Walla University Center for Humanitarian Engagement assisting PSMCM with vaccination clinic volunteer scheduling using the Walla Walla Volunteer Corps [website](#).
- DCH weekend staffing.
- PSMCM maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Local Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting on Thursdays, (though no meeting for the last couple of weeks).
- DCH and PSMCM are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.



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- LTC facilities continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- City of College Place meeting every Wednesday with Mayor and managers for the South/Central region.
- DCH still has large quantity of antigen rapid test; available for any agency that needs to do screening.
- Providence Urgent Care drive-through hours are currently 0700-1600 - not open as late as they were during our last surge.
- Chamber of Commerce is distributing PPE with informational cards to hotels, so guests know what Phase 2 means in Walla Walla. They are seeing an increase in number of tourism-related requests for masks.
- VAMC vaccine clinic March 20th in Richland (300 – 400 doses).
- March 20 and tentatively March 28 clinics at the Fairgrounds.
- Walla Walla Clinic evaluating adjustment of cold and flu clinic operations.
- DOH is working on a 3-week allocation plan which should help with scheduling of mass immunization clinics.
- WWEM receiving last of large BYD mask allocation this week; 5,000 masks.
- City of Walla Walla weekly informational video frequency being reevaluated, possibly moving to every other week.
- Public schools are exploring new guidance to move to a 3' social distance so schools can open.
- Chamber of Commerce ready to send out information on Working Washington Phase 4.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>



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- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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